

3731

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Northrup III et al
Serial No.: 09/800,613
Filed: March 7, 2001
Title: EVERTING STAPLE DEVICES AND METHODS

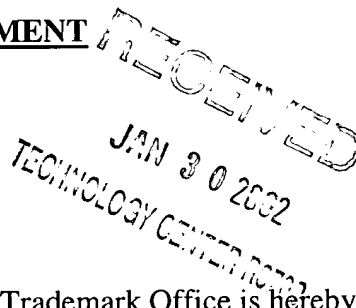


Examiner: Unknown
Group Art Unit: Unknown
Docket: M104.120.102

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:



Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on attached Form PTO-1449. One copy of each reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

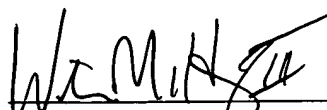
This Information Disclosure Statement is being before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No certification or fee is required.

Nevertheless, I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart PCT application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (e)(1).

The references were cited in a counterpart PCT application. An English language version of the International Search Report is attached for the Examiner's information.

Respectfully submitted,

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Information Disclosure Statement

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Please grant any extension of time necessary for entry; charge any fee due to Deposit Account No. 500471.

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C., 20231 on this 30th day of October, 2001.

By

Name: William M. Hienz III